

Mr. NICKLES. If somebody is activated and they go to Afghanistan or Iraq, don't they receive full health care costs without paying the 28 percent?

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. They do, and when they come back home because of what we did last year they get health care for 6 months. But after that 6 months, 25 percent of them go back into the civilian world where they have no health care, zero. That is not right. That is not like every other Federal employee who is part-time. That is not right and we cannot afford to let that continue to happen because we are going to be needing these men and women more than ever. Their families are stressed. This is a chance to spend a little bit of money on people who are giving everything, including their lives and their limbs.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Daschle amendment which would provide TRICARE benefits for reservists and their family members while in a non-active status, and direct the DoD to pay private insurance premiums for reservists when ordered to active duty. Under the Graham/Daschle proposal, if enrolled in TRICARE, Reserve members would pay 28 percent of the annual premium and the Department of Defense would pay the remaining 72 percent.

The benefit is cost prohibitive. CBO recently estimated the benefit would cost \$700 million in fiscal year 2005, \$5.7 billion over 5 years; and \$14.2 billion over 10 years.

The Department of Defense estimates are much higher, at \$1.9 billion in fiscal year 2005 and \$11.6 billion over 5 years.—About \$2 billion a year.

In future years, this enhanced benefit will carve out essential funding that DoD needs to maintain readiness, meet procurement needs, transform the Armed Forces and continue the Global War on Terrorism.

The Senate is already making significant investment in our Guard and Reserve forces. In the fiscal year 2004 Defense Appropriation bill, we provided: \$15.1 billion for pay and allowances, \$14.3 billion in Operation and Maintenance funding for training, education and support, and about \$2.5 billion for National Guard and Reserve Equipment—in total, an investment of about \$31.9 billion for the Guard and Reserve.

A substantial portion of this investment is within the active component accounts for equipment and weapons that go directly to our Guard and Reserve forces. These items include: HUMMWVs, LITENING Targeting Pods for Aircraft, Construction Equipment, Heavy Trucks, and Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures to defeat shoulder fired missiles—LAIRCM.

If the proposed amendment is adopted, there should be great concern that this enhanced entitlement program will come at the expense of other Guard and Reserve requirements for training and equipping the force.

The chairman's bill already offers several permanent provisions to en-

hance the medical readiness and ensure continuity of care for reserve members and their families, including a provision that provides the opportunity for Reserve members and their employers to participate in TRICARE while the member is in a non-active duty status—a cost shared by the Reserve member and his or her employer.

The chairman's bill also provides for a demonstration program to determine the need for, and feasibility of providing TRICARE benefits to members of the Ready Reserve who are eligible for unemployment compensation or ineligible for employer-provided health care coverage.

In a September 2003 report, GAO found that DoD data does not identify a need to offer TRICARE to reservists and their families when members are not on active duty. Many of the unknown factors include: the effect on recruiting and retention, the impact on active duty personnel, the impact on the TRICARE system and the military treatment facilities, and the number of reservists that might participate.

The proposed demonstration program and enhanced benefits included in the chairman's bill will clearly enhance the medical readiness and ensure continuity of care for reserve members and their families.

The Department of Defense and Congress should take the time to further study the appropriate level of health care benefits for our Guard and Reserve, and allow the enhanced benefits included in the chairman's bill to be implemented and studied before we commit to spending billions of dollars on a new entitlement program.

The Department is in the process of appointing an advisory committee on military compensation to review these types of issues. I believe it is prudent to conduct these studies before Congress acts on this legislation.

Due to the high cost of the proposal and because of the enhanced benefits already contained in the chairman's bill, I must urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all time for debate has expired.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. I ask unanimous consent to add the following cosponsors: Senators ALLEN, MURKOWSKI, LOTT, COLEMAN, DEWINE, LEAHY, CLINTON, LINCOLN, CORZINE, DORGAN, BINGAMAN, MURRAY, and LANDRIEU.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the vote will occur on the amendment of the Senator from South Carolina for which the yeas and nays have been ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Akaka	Dodd	Lieberman
Alexander	Dorgan	Lincoln
Allen	Durbin	Lugar
Bayh	Ensign	McCain
Bennett	Feingold	Mikulski
Biden	Feinstein	Murkowski
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Murray
Boxer	Graham (FL)	Nelson (FL)
Breaux	Graham (SC)	Nelson (NE)
Byrd	Gregg	Pryor
Cantwell	Hagel	Reed
Carper	Harkin	Reid
Chafee	Hatch	Rockefeller
Chambliss	Hollings	Sarbanes
Clinton	Hutchison	Schumer
Coleman	Inouye	Shelby
Collins	Jeffords	Smith
Conrad	Johnson	Specter
Corzine	Kennedy	Stabenow
Craig	Kohl	Talent
Crapo	Landrieu	Voinovich
Daschle	Lautenberg	Wyden
Dayton	Leahy	
DeWine	Levin	

NAYS—25

Allard	Frist	Santorum
Bond	Grassley	Sessions
Brownback	Inhofe	Snowe
Bunning	Kyl	Stevens
Burns	Lott	Sununu
Cochran	McConnell	Thomas
Cornyn	Miller	Warner
Dole	Nickles	
Enzi	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—5

Baucus	Domenici	Kerry
Campbell	Edwards	

The amendment (No. 3258) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote in relation to the pending Warner-Levin-Stevens amendment occur at 6:30 tonight, with no second degrees in order to the amendment prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, would the Chair advise the Senate with regard to the standing order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 1 hour of debate evenly divided in morning business.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader is recognized.

DEDICATION OF THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 369, which was submitted earlier today by myself and Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 369) expressing the sense of the Senate in honoring the service of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 369) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 369

Whereas during the dark days of World War II, the United States, the world, and the very future of freedom were threatened by nazism, fascism, and tyranny;

Whereas a generation of Americans stepped forward to confront this scourge, accepting the call to duty to fight the Axis Powers, to defend freedom, and to put their lives on the line so that future generations could live in peace and freedom;

Whereas during World War II, the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States fought alongside allies from more than 30 other nations to vanquish the tyranny and oppression of the Axis Powers on the sea, on the land, and in the air in distant lands in every part of the globe;

Whereas more than 16,000,000 Americans served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, hailing from every corner of the United States and its territories;

Whereas more than 671,000 Americans were wounded and over 105,000 Americans were held as prisoners of war in that terrible conflict;

Whereas more than 400,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives to defeat the evils of nazism, fascism, and tyranny, and to preserve the United States and the ideals the people of the United States hold true;

Whereas by the end of World War II, the members of the Armed Forces of the United States had become symbols of hope for the victors, the liberated peoples of the world, and their former adversaries;

Whereas the victory of the Allied Powers in World War II paved the way for the growth of democracy and freedom in the defeated nations of Germany and Japan, and laid the foundation for the West to confront, and eventually defeat, the threat of Communism;

Whereas the people of the United States can never fully express their gratitude to all the members of the Armed Services, including the "Greatest Generation" of World War II, who have dedicated themselves to protecting the people of the United States and to defending the ideals and principles of our great country;

Whereas 114 veterans of World War II have served in the Senate, including 6 who are currently serving: Senator Akaka of Hawaii, Senator Hollings of South Carolina, Senator Inouye of Hawaii, Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey, Senator Stevens of Alaska, and Senator Warner of Virginia; and

Whereas the Senate, on the occasion of the dedication of the World War II Memorial and the 60th Anniversary of the D-day landings in Normandy, France, is proud to honor its Members, past and present, who served in World War II: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its eternal appreciation for the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who fought and toiled to protect the United States and preserve the freedom and way of life of the United States during World War II;

(2) honors the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of liberty and the United States during that global conflict; and

(3) proudly commends the 108 former Members and 6 current Members of the Senate who are veterans of World War II, including Senator Akaka, Senator Hollings, Senator Inouye, Senator Lautenberg, Senator Stevens, and Senator Warner, for their leadership and service to the United States both in war and in peace.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks and Senator DASCHLE's remarks, Senator STEVENS be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the "greatest generation"—the veterans of World War II who fought so valiantly to save the world from tyranny. This weekend, thousands of veterans from World War II gathered on The Mall to witness the dedication of a memorial to their heroism and to their sacrifice. Many of us had also the opportunity to join them after the celebration, the recognition ceremonies, with our families on that Mall in tribute to them at this wonderful memorial.

As President Bush said in his remarks to this remarkable group, "When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans showed the finest qualities of our Nation and of our humanity."

It is fitting that Saturday's event was the largest gathering of surviving veterans in 60 years, and perhaps more than coincidental that the spring weather cooperated so beautifully for this truly historic day.

Nearly 60 years have passed since the "greatest generation" won that terrible war. It seems inevitable now that America would defeat the forces of Nazism and fascism. Our enemies were wicked and freedom was right. But as President Reagan put it so eloquently in his address on the 40th anniversary of D-Day:

For four long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved and the world prayed for its rescue. Here, in Normandy, the rescue began. Here the Allies stood and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

Those were the words of President Reagan. Sixteen million Americans served in the Armed Forces during that great battle. They hailed from every corner of the United States, from the countryside to city streets, from high school graduation classes to suburban family homes.

Mr. President, 671,000 Americans were wounded and over 105,000 Americans were held as prisoners of war. More than 400,000 gave their lives to defend America and to preserve our freedom.

The Senate is honored to have among us men who fought in that Great War:

Senator DANIEL AKAKA of Hawaii, who served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including service on Saipan and Tinian;

Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS of South Carolina, who served in the U.S. Army as an officer in the North African and European campaigns, receiving the Bronze Star and seven campaign ribbons;

Senator DANIEL INOUE of Hawaii, whose battlefield heroism earned him the highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor, along with a Bronze Star, Purple Heart with a cluster, and 12 other medals and citations;

Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG of New Jersey, who enlisted in the Army Signal Corps and served in Europe;

Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska, who was a pilot in the China-Burma-India theater, for which he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Air Medals, and the Yuan Hai Medal awarded by the Republic of China;

Senator JOHN WARNER, who enlisted in the Navy in World War II and went on to fight in the Korean war in the Marine Corps. Senator WARNER served as a Marine Corps reservist for 10 years and was promoted to the rank of captain.

As newsman and author Tom Brokaw wrote in his best selling book, "The Greatest Generation,"

They answered the call to save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs. They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest. They succeeded on every front. They won the war; they saved the world.

A veteran at Saturday's dedication on The Mall was asked by a reporter